

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 INT-05 ITC-01 /021 W

-----142026Z 077255 /45

P 141930Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4885

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 2747

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN BL

SUBJ: BUMINES VISIT

REF: STATE 83601

1. AS EMBASSY EXPLAINED IN LA PAZ 2674, THE VERY SHORT TIME ALLOWED BY NOTIFICATION OF VISIT IN STATE 78144 COMPLICATED AND REDUCED THE CHANCES FOR EMBASSY TO OBTAIN GOB CLEARANCE FOR VISIT. WHILE HELPFUL, BOLIVIAN EMBASSY AND COMIBOL REP WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE NECESSARY CLEARANCE OF GOB FOR SUCH A VISIT. CARLOS ITURRALDE INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAD UNDERSTANDIHV WITH LENAHAH THAT HE (ITURRALDE) WOULD BE INFORMED AHEAD OF TIME OF THE VISIT AND USE HIS GOOD OFFICES TO PREPARE THE MINISTRY OF MINES FOR THE VISIT. AS IT TURNED OUT, ITURRALDE WAS NOT INFORMED AHEAD OF TIME AND THE EMBASSY ONLY LEARNED OF HARRIS AND WIMPFEN PRESENCE IN LA PAZ BY ACCIDENT ON EASTER SUNDAY.

2. UNDER SECRETARY MADE BIG POINT OF DELICATE SITUATION CAUSED BY DE FACTO PRESENCE OF TEAM IN LA PAZ ON MONDAY. HE FELT THAT ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE REACTED TO TEAM'S PRESENCE IN SAME WAY. IN VIEW OF EMBASSY BRAZILIA'S SENSITIVITY TO TEAM VISIT THERE (LA PAZ 2669) IT APPEARS BOLIVIA MAY NOT BE THE ONLY GOVERNMENT SENSITIVE TO THIS TYPE OF VISIT. EMBASSY DID NOT HAVE TIME TO USE PERSONAL CONTACT AT MINMINES TO EXPLAIN IN DETAIL THAT USG "SOUGHT CONSUMER RECOGNITION AND UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR UNIQUE PROBLEMS AS A HIGH-COST PRODUCER." WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT
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WAS FUNDAMENTAL LACK OF SENSITIVITY TO THIS ISSUE THAT LED GOB TO REJECT TEAM VISIT. GENERAL VILLALPANDO SAID HE WOULD RECONSIDER A VISIT LATER IN YEAR AFTER JULY ITC MEETING.

3. EMBASSY IS UNAWARE OF ANY GENERAL ANTIPATHY BY GENERAL VILLALPANDO TO BOLIVIAN MEMBERSHIP IN ITC. RATHER, HE HAS FOLLOWED GOB LINE OF REQUIRING SOME COMPROMISE ON BASIC QUESTIONS RE ITC OF

VITAL CONCERN TO GOB. IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE, AND PERHAPS IN OTHERS, GENERAL VILLALAL VILLALPANDO MAY HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED BY DIRECTOR OF MINING, GUILLERMO MARGUIA, WHO OFTEN TENDS TO BE NATIONALISTIC AND STATIST-SOCIALIST IN HIS VIEWS. HOWEVER, AS STATED ABOVE, THE HANDLING OF THE VISIT WAS A MAJOR NEGATIVE FACTOR IN ULTIMATE OUTCOME. AS STATED PREVIOUSLY, EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO SUPPLY AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE ON COST OF TIN MINING IN BOLIVIA BEFORE JUNE PANEL MEETING.
STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 14-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BUMINES VISIT
TAGS: EMIN, BL
To: STATE
Type: TE
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